

Dear Roy,

River Weaver Navigation – floating Pennywort

Thank you for bringing the issue of Pennywort to our attention and in particular highlighting the areas that are causing you most concern at the present time. I can confirm that so far this year we have undertaken an initial clearance of Pennywort in June when we removed some 540 hopper tons of material from the navigation. We are currently clearing the navigation for a second time with works commencing on Monday the 20th August and so far we have removed another 360 hopper tons of material so far this week from the Town Pond and Hunts lock area. The clearance team will commence further removal of Pennywort from Vale Royal lock back to Hunts lock tomorrow 23rd August which appears to be a badly effected area at the moment.

With regard to the Marshalls Arm section of the navigation and the Dock hole we would again be more than happy to assist members of the Marshalls Arm group, Vale Royal BC and Groundwork as we have done in the past. As you are already aware the sensitive ecology within the arm and the shallow draft of the water prevents us from taking our plant into the arm to complete the clearance works there. I would suggest a meeting be arranged to establish how and when such works can be coordinated with all parties concerned.

I will by copy of this letter ask Andy Whitehouse the Maintenance Supervisor to contact you and establish a convenient date for a meeting.

The area on the old river line at Vale Royal is a cause for more concern, as you know because of the difficult access to this part of the waterway it as always been a problem area to stay in control of the Pennywort here. We are currently looking into possible methods of tackling the problem in this area, all I can do at this present time is keep you informed of any progress we make in the development of our plan of attack.

In conclusion I can confirm it is our intention to continue with the clearance of the Pennywort over the next two to three week period in order to get on top of the extensive growth that always develops at this time of year. I hope the above information will enable you to confirm to your members that we are once again doing all we can to stay on top of this very difficult problem one that we are always looking for support with when ever possible.